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MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD MARCH 27, 2007

A Regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Hopewell, Virginia, was held Tuesday, March 27, 2007, at 6:30 PM in the City Council Chambers, Municipal Building, 300 North Main Street, Hopewell, Virginia.

PRESENT: Steven R. Taylor, Mayor
Brenda S. Pelham, Vice Mayor
Christina J. Luman-Bailey, Councilor
Curtis W. Harris, Councilor
Kenneth B. Emerson, Councilor
E. Randy Sealey, Councilor
N. Gregory Cuffey, Councilor

Robert S. Herbert, Interim City Manager
Edwin N. Wilmot, City Attorney
Ann M. Romano, City Clerk

Mayor Taylor opened the meeting at 6:40 PM. Roll call was taken as follows:

Mayor Taylor	-	present
Vice Mayor Pelham	-	ABSENT (arrived at 6:44 PM)
Councilor Bailey	-	ABSENT (arrived at 6:44 PM)
Councilor Harris	-	present
Councilor Emerson	-	present
Councilor Sealey	-	present
Councilor Cuffey	-	present

CLOSED SESSION

At 6:40 PM **motion** was made by Councilor Emerson, and seconded by Councilor Sealey, to Convene into Closed Session to discuss Legal Matters (Bluffs HUD Complaints), Personnel, and Appointments to Boards and Commissions, in accordance with Virginia Code § 2.2-3711 (A) (1) & (7). Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

Mayor Taylor	-	yes
Councilor Cuffey	-	yes
Councilor Harris	-	yes
Councilor Emerson		yes
Councilor Sealey	-	yes

OPEN SESSION

At 7:41 PM Council convened into Open Session. Councilors responded to the question: "Were the only matters discussed in the Closed Meeting public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements; and public business matters identified in the motion to convene into Closed Session?" Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

Councilor Bailey	-	yes
Councilor Harris	-	yes
Councilor Emerson	-	yes
Councilor Sealey	-	yes
Mayor Taylor	-	yes

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Vice Mayor Pelham	-	yes
Councilor Cuffey	-	yes

Mayor Taylor opened the regular meeting at 7:41 PM. Roll call was taken as follows:

Mayor Taylor	-	present
Vice Mayor Pelham	-	present
Councilor Bailey		present
Councilor Harris	-	present
Councilor Emerson	-	present
Councilor Sealey	-	present
Councilor Cuffey	-	present

Prayer was offered by Rev. Sylvia Tucker, Chaplain, JRMC Chapel, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion was made by Councilor Harris, and seconded by Councilor Sealey, to approve the Consent Agenda: Minutes- Regular Meeting March 13, 2007 and Special Meetings March 12, 13, & 16, 2007 (City Manager Interviews); Pending List; Information for Council Review: [School Board minutes 1/25/07, 2/6/07, 2/21/07, & 2/22/07; HRHA agenda 3/19/07, minutes 1/8/07]; Personnel Change Report; Public Hearings Announcements: Set Public Hearing on April 10, 2007 at 7:30 PM for FY 07/08 City Budget and FY 07/08 CDBG Budget; and Set a Public Hearing on the FY 07/08 Tax Rate on April 24, 2007 at 7:30 PM; Routine Approval of Work Sessions: Set Budget Work Sessions for FY 07/08 Budget on Thursdays April 12, April 20, and April 27, 2007 at 5:30 PM in the City Council Chambers, 300 N. Main St., Hopewell; Ordinances on second and final reading: None; Proclamations/Resolutions/ Presentations: None. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

Councilor Bailey	-	yes
Councilor Harris	-	yes
Councilor Emerson	-	yes
Councilor Sealey	-	yes
Mayor Taylor	-	yes
Vice Mayor Pelham	-	yes
Councilor Cuffey	-	yes

COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITIZENS

John W. Clouds, 3917 Old Iron Road, Hopewell, asked Council's support for the Middle Road Master Meter Request for the Super Kids project.

Charles Bennett, 632 Cedar Level Road, Hopewell, stated that he came before Council two weeks ago regarding the "illegal car theft ring" the City of Hopewell is operating. He provided a handout (filed in the City Clerk's office) regarding the Hopewell City Code Sec. 25-54 and his alleged discrepancies between that and the DMV Code and State law. He asked Council why the City Attorney has not addressed these issues and why he has not written a letter to him. He alleged that it is illegal to transport cars and not auction them. He pointed to the City Attorney and told Council that he should be fired. Rev. Bennett also alleged that it is illegal to use Police Officers on private property to serve citations; those are civil matters. The City cannot give cars to the Wayne Taylors and other garages in town and have them titled in their names. He further alleged that the City has an ordinance that is in conflict with DMV law. He claimed that the City Attorney will not answer these issues as directed by the

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Mayor last week. He provided a handout (filed in the City Clerk's office) which corresponded with a set of photographs that he presented to the Mayor and Council. Those photographs were of vehicles throughout the City that had no City tags and/or no valid inspection sticker, inoperable and not properly covered.

There being no other speakers, Communications from Citizens closed at 8:53 PM.

CITIZEN/COUNCILOR REQUEST – COUNCILOR CUFFEY – FREE PRESCRIPTION DRUG PROGRAM

Councilor Cuffey gave a brief PowerPoint presentation on the (National Association of Counties) NACo/Caremark prescription drug program. The NACo drug discount card program helps consumers save money on their prescription medications any time their prescriptions are not covered by insurance. The free cards are distributed in the sponsoring locality and may be used at any participating retail pharmacy. The discount card is not insurance.

Savings average 20%; some discounts may be more, and some less, depending on the drug and quantity purchased. Cardholders are eligible for higher discounts on a three-month supply of some medications through mail service. Cardholders also can save on pet prescriptions at participating retail pharmacies.

The cards may be used by all locality residents, regardless of age, income or existing health coverage. There is no enrollment form, no membership fee and no restrictions or limits on frequency of use. Cardholders and their family members may use the card any time their prescriptions are not covered by insurance.

Unlike many other card programs, there is no enrollment cost or membership fee. The cardholder pays the negotiated discount price or the pharmacy's retail price, whichever is lower. The average discount is 20%. More than 57,000 pharmacies nationwide accept the card, including most chain pharmacies and many independents. Wal-Mart pharmacies participate in the program.

The program has a safety feature that alerts pharmacists when one drug may conflict with another medication the cardholder is taking, if the prescriptions were obtained with the discount card. The discount card program remains a useful option now that Medicare Part D has been implemented. The card can be used when a Medicare Part D plan doesn't cover a drug.

The program is administered by Caremark Rx, Inc., a leading pharmaceutical services company with broad experience in managing drug discount card programs for sponsoring clients. Caremark negotiates with pharmacies to offer a discount off their retail prices. Most pharmacies contract to participate because it draws customers to their stores. Caremark derives revenue from the program in the form of a small fee that the pharmacy pays on each transaction. The fee is a small fraction of the total transaction amount.

Few manufacturers pay rebates on the discount card program. Caremark shares a portion of the rebate with the consumer at the point of sale via an increased discount. The retail pharmacy is reimbursed for this additional discount. Cardholder information remains confidential and is not resold to a third-party for any reason.

Caremark negotiates with retail pharmacies to offer discounts off retail prices at the point of purchase. Some news reports have incorrectly stated that Caremark purchases prescription drugs and distributes them to retail pharmacies.

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Bettina Hundley uses the program in Prince George County, as do 32 counties throughout Virginia. Richmond is the first City. Some of the local pharmacies that participate are Central Drug, CVS, Reliacare, Rite Aid, and Walgreen.

Motion was made by Councilor Cuffey, and seconded by Councilor Bailey, to adopt the program.

A **motion** was made by Vice Mayor Pelham, and seconded by Councilor Harris, to table the Free Prescription Drug Program to allow Council additional time to read the supporting documentation. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

Councilor Bailey	-	yes
Councilor Harris	-	yes
Councilor Emerson	-	NO
Councilor Sealey	-	yes
Mayor Taylor	-	NO
Vice Mayor Pelham	-	yes
Councilor Cuffey	-	yes

CITIZEN/COUNCILOR REQUEST – COUNCILOR CUFFEY – TAXES & ASSESSMENTS – COMMUNITY/TOWN HALL MEETING

Motion was made by Councilor Cuffey, and seconded by Councilor Sealey, to set a Town Hall Meeting on April 17, 2007, at 7:00 PM to discuss Tax Assessments, for the purpose of getting citizen feedback.

After discussion, Mayor Taylor requested a report from administration with the total of assessments prior to the new assessment; the new assessment; and the difference between the two; a case study on those that increased the most, that decreased the most, and those that stayed the same. Finally, the City is divided into assessment districts; the Mayor requested a map of those districts. The Mayor also asked the following staff members attend: March Altman-Interim City Manager, Elesteen Hager-Finance Director, Department Heads, and the Real Estate Assessor.

There was Council discussion regarding the Public Hearing on April 10 to discuss assessments and whether or not a separate meeting would do anything that the Public Hearing would not do. There was discussion on the difference between a Work Session and a Town Hall meeting, and the importance of informing the citizens on the details of the budget. Some felt that a less formal environment would be better to hear citizens. There should be an opportunity for citizens to make comments.

An amendment to the **motion** was made by Councilor Emerson to set a Work Session on April 10, 2007 at 5:30 PM prior to the Regular Council meeting.

Motion was made by Councilor Sealey, and seconded by Councilor Emerson, to call for the question to close debate. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

Councilor Bailey	-	NO
Councilor Harris	-	yes
Councilor Emerson	-	yes
Councilor Sealey	-	yes
Mayor Taylor	-	yes
Vice Mayor Pelham	-	yes
Councilor Cuffey	-	yes

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Upon the roll call on the amended **motion** to set a Town Hall Meeting on April 10, 2007, at 5:30 PM, in Council Chambers, to discuss Tax Assessments and the FY 2007-2008 Budget, for citizen feed back, the vote resulted:

Councilor Bailey	-	yes
Councilor Harris	-	yes
Councilor Emerson	-	yes
Councilor Sealey	-	yes
Mayor Taylor	-	yes
Vice Mayor Pelham	-	yes
Councilor Cuffey	-	yes

CITIZEN/COUNCILOR REQUEST – DONALD L. WILSON, PRESIDENT/CHAIRMAN – SUPER KIDS MINISTRIES, INC.

The Prince George County Board of Supervisors is committed to supporting the “Super Kids” in their vision and mission as a regional resource. The Board owns a parcel on Middle Road that they are keeping in reserve as a possible future school site. Both projects require municipal sewer. The Super Kids have been significantly hampered by the lack of sewer to date.

Hopewell City Council has been asked to vote to permit the County of Prince George to install a “master meter” at the back of the County property located on Middle Road. All associated Cost(s) will be paid by the County of Prince George. The Super Kids would be permitted to connect through this “master meter.” When and if the parcel on Middle Road is utilized it too would be permitted access through that “master meter.”

Donald L. Wilson, President, Chairman of Super Kids Ministries, Inc. requested time to give a short presentation about the Super Kids Ministries’ desire to construct a group home for the mentally challenged to be located on Middle Road in Prince George. The first and most critical hurdle is the solution for wastewater disposal; a sewer line must be available before anything else can be initiated.

Mr. Wilson indicated that the land is owned by the New Jerusalem Fellowship Church and will be donated to Super Kids to build five group homes.

Councilor Emerson, in his capacity as Chairman of the HRWTF Commission, addressed Mr. Wilson, and assured him that Hopewell will do everything it can to assist them. Ft. Lee has already notified the Commission that they will require the full capacity of that line and will likely need another line due to BRAC.

Motion was made by Councilor Emerson, and seconded by Councilor Sealey, to refer the issue to administration for 60 days, as a priority, to coordinate with Prince George County and Ft. Lee to resolve the County of Prince George’s request to install a “master meter” at the back of the County property located on Middle Road, all associated cost(s) to be paid by the County of Prince George, to permit the Super Kids to connect through this “master meter,” and finally, when and if the parcel on Middle Road is utilized, it too would be permitted access through this “master meter.” Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

Councilor Bailey	-	yes
Councilor Harris	-	yes
Councilor Emerson	-	yes
Councilor Sealey	-	yes
Mayor Taylor	-	yes

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Vice Mayor Pelham	-	yes
Councilor Cuffey	-	yes

Mayor Taylor called for a five minute recess from 9:07 PM to 9:12 PM.

CITIZEN/COUNCILOR REQUEST – DR. JANE McCULLEN, HISTORIC HOPEWELL FOUNDATION – REQUEST TO CHANGE REMAINING MATCHING GRANT TO STRAIGHT GRANT

The Hopewell City Council gave Historic Hopewell Foundation, Inc. (HHFI) a matching grant of \$30,000 to help with the reconstruction of two dependencies at Weston Manor. To date, the foundation has raised \$9,137.27 with a “This-and-That” yard sale and “Barbecue-by-the-Appomattox.” The city has matched this amount. The construction team is working diligently with the architect, The Virginia Department of Historic Resources, and The Center of Archeological Research of William and Mary, so that construction can begin as soon as possible. Historic Hopewell Foundation is requesting the remaining \$20,862.73 at this time without having to raise the matching amount. The time and effort needed to initiate this construction project does not leave the foundation much time for additional fund-raising within the timeline for completion.

Motion was made by Councilor Emerson, and seconded by Councilor Sealey, to resolve to approve the request to change the requirements to match City funds and allocate the remaining \$20,862.73 of the City’s commitment to the historic Hopewell Foundation without a match. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

Councilor Bailey	-	yes
Councilor Harris	-	yes
Councilor Emerson	-	yes
Councilor Sealey	-	yes
Mayor Taylor	-	yes
Vice Mayor Pelham	-	yes
Councilor Cuffey	-	yes

CITIZEN/COUNCILOR REQUEST – DR. JANE McCULLEN, HISTORIC HOPEWELL FOUNDATION – KIPPAX PROPERTY IN HOPEWELL (ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONSERVANCY)

In 2006 The Archaeological Conservancy purchased the Kippax property in Hopewell from the Heretick family. The Archaeological Conservancy is the only national nonprofit organization that identifies, acquires, and preserves the most significant archaeological sites in the U. S. Since its beginning in 1980, the Conservancy has preserved more than 315 sites across the nation with the mission of ensuring the survival of the irreplaceable cultural heritage. Kippax is one of those treasured sites.

Because this valuable archaeological site includes buildings, The Conservancy desires to have Historic Hopewell Foundation, Inc. (HHFI) lease the buildings for uses to be determined. At the present time, there are 137 boxes of archaeological artifacts that have been retrieved from Kippax stored with the Virginia Department of Historical Resources. These artifacts are available to Historic Hopewell Foundation.

Historic Hopewell Foundation continues to offer Weston Manor and the City Point Early History Museum as sites for local citizens to visit and enjoy the varied programs as well as tourists who come from most states and several foreign countries each year. The Kippax property may very well be another site to use in commemorating the history of the area. In order to do this, HHFI is asking the City of

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Hopewell to help with the initial expenses of maintaining the property while studying the best way to tell story, archaeologically and historically.

Chris Stevenson of the Virginia Department of Historical Resources, Petersburg, gave a brief presentation to Council.

Mayor Taylor filed a Transactional Disclosure Statement. The nature of personal interest affected by the transaction is that he is an adjacent property owner, but he was able to participate in the transaction fairly, objectively, and in the public interest. The Bolling Family is putting a library on the site, and the Heretick Family is planning to put something there.

Motion was made by Councilor Emerson, and seconded by Councilor Sealey, to resolve to approve the annual contribution to the HHFI of \$3,000.00 per year for three years (2007, 2008, 2009), and the funding of a historical study (\$10,000.00) to assess the potential uses and activities that could be provided at the site from a tourist attraction opportunity. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

Councilor Bailey	-	yes
Councilor Harris	-	yes
Councilor Emerson	-	yes
Councilor Sealey	-	yes
Mayor Taylor	-	yes
Vice Mayor Pelham	-	yes
Councilor Cuffey	-	yes

CITIZEN/COUNCILOR REQUEST – VICE MAYOR PELHAM – APPOINT JOHN M. “MARCH” ALTMAN, JR. INTERIM CITY MANAGER

The City Charter, Chapter V, Sec. 5. Acting manager, states that, “The council may designate some properly qualified person to perform the duties of the city manager in case of a vacancy or the absence or disability of the said city manager.”

After the resignation of Alan K. Archer in the Fall of 2006, Robert S. Herbert served as Interim City Manager. His last day was on March 16, 2007.

Motion was made by Vice Mayor Pelham, and seconded by Councilor Harris, to Waive Council’s Rules and Procedures to amend the consideration from Acting City Manager to Interim City Manager. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

Councilor Bailey	-	yes
Councilor Harris	-	yes
Councilor Emerson	-	yes
Councilor Sealey	-	yes
Mayor Taylor	-	yes
Vice Mayor Pelham	-	yes
Councilor Cuffey	-	yes

Motion was made by Vice Mayor Pelham, and seconded by Councilor Emerson, to appoint John M. “March” Altman, Jr. as Interim City Manager, until such time as a permanent City Manager is appointed, and at that time Mr. Altman will resume his position as Assistant City Manager of Community Development. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

Councilor Bailey	-	yes
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Councilor Harris	-	yes
Councilor Emerson	-	yes
Councilor Sealey	-	yes
Mayor Taylor	-	yes
Vice Mayor Pelham	-	yes
Councilor Cuffey	-	yes

CITIZEN/COUNCILOR REQUEST – COUNCILOR CUFFEY – POLICE CHIEF SELECTION PROCESS

Councilor Cuffey proposed discussion of the Police Chief selection process and the panel composition to select the new Chief of Police; to have open discussion; and to take action on the composition of the panel. Councilor Cuffey was previously unable to get the answers to the questions that he was asking about the Police Chief selection panel. Since then he has received those answers. Therefore, he removed this topic from the agenda.

REGULAR BUSINESS – PRESENTATION OF THE FY 2007/2008 BUDGET

The FY 2007/2008 Budget was distributed to Council.

The FY 2007/2008 Financial Plan proposes a reasonable allocation of scarce revenues in a manner that enables the City Council to move forward with the implementation of the Vision 2020 Strategic Operating Plan (SOP) to achieve the City's vision. The SOP consists of six visions themes. These themes are: (1) Civic Education, (2) Culture and Recreation, (3) Economic Development, (4) Education, (5) Housing, and (6) Safe and Healthy Environment.

The FY 2007/2008 Financial Plan consists of the General Fund, School Funds, Social Services Fund, Parks and Recreation Fund, Marina Fund, Comprehensive Services Act Fund, Community Development Block Grant Fund; and enterprise funds including Solid Waste, Sewer Services, and Hopewell Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility. The FY 2007/2008 Financial Plan totals \$77,224,733, without school numbers, which represents an increase of \$6,384,297 or 8.3% increase over the FY 2006/2007 adopted budget.

The General Fund is the main operating fund of the City and includes most traditional local government programs such as Public Safety and Public Works. The General Fund Budget totals \$40,181,575. This is an increase of \$2,412,387 or a 6.0% increase of FY 2006/2007. The School Board approved the Superintendent's proposed FY2007/2008 Annual Budget totaling \$46,155,660. The School Board Budget requests an increase in local funding from \$11,765,341 to \$12,415,268 or \$649,924, which is a 5.52% increase over FY 2006/2007.

The FY 2007/2008 Financial Plan attempts to balance the needs of the City and the resources for which to pay for those needs. The City must maintain its undesignated General Fund balance at a minimum of 10% of its operating budget and resist any efforts to spend the fund balance below 10%. Adherence to these goals is important to maintain the City's "A" rating from Standard and Poor's. The City administration continues to explore cost savings.

According to the 2003/2004 composite Fiscal Stress Index, published by the Virginia Commission on Local Government, Hopewell is the 15th most fiscally stressed locality in the Commonwealth. However, the City is still classified as a "high stress" community. The continued implication of this ranking underscores the need for increased focus on economic development and redevelopment activities that enhance the City's tax base raise community standards and generate new net revenue.

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Calendar year 2006 produced \$18,406,000 in new residential and commercial investment. It is important to note that this value will generate an estimated \$206,147 in new real estate revenue on a recurring basis. The city administration expects additional investment opportunities on the Route 36 business corridor as a direct result of the I-295 interchange (Exit-9), and the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) changes at Fort Lee. Employment growth in Richmond Metropolitan Statistical area continues to match the state average. Over the next five years, BRAC changes will be implemented. The region stands to gain from the realignment, mainly due to the expansion at Fort Lee. The forecast gain for the region (direct and indirect impact as forecast in the BRAC report) is 11,192 jobs, with over half of these being in the military.

Additional effort is needed to stimulate investment in the greater downtown area to further enhance the City's tax base and foster community renewal. Several on-going initiatives will serve as catalyst projects to facilitate downtown investment. These initiatives are: (1) completion of a new headquarters library for the Appomattox Regional Library System, (2) redevelopment of Old Patrick Copeland Elementary School site, (3) redevelopment of the Exeter brownfield site, (4) redevelopment of the Butterworth Furniture Store, and (5) completion of the Neighborhood Redevelopment Plan.

Several new housing developments, currently under way, represent the most significant opportunity to develop market rate housing in Hopewell since the mid-1980's. The residential growth will generate additional demand and expectations for an improved downtown.

The FY 2007/2008 Financial Plan proposes a tax rate for real property in tax year 2007 at \$1.12 per \$100 of assessed value; personal property tax rate remains at \$3.05 per \$100 of assessed value; and machinery and tools tax rate continues at \$3.05 per \$100 of assessed value.

Mr. Altman thanked staff for their long hours and hard work on the budget document.

Under the Consent Agenda, Council set a Public Hearing on April 10, 2007 to hear the City's FY 2007/2008 Budget and the City's FY 2007/2008 CDBG Budget, and to set Council's Budget Work Sessions at 5:30 PM on Thursdays, April 12, April 19, and April 26, 2007.

REGULAR BUSINESS – CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT – BLUFFS RESIDENTS HUD COMPLAINTS – SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

Mr. Wilnot presented a brief report to Council on the negotiated settlement of the HUD complaints from Bluffs residents and the Conciliation Agreement. The agreement provides that "if the City purchases the Bluffs, or assigns its option to purchase to an entity which purchases the Bluffs, the City will provide five-hundred (\$500.00) dollars relocation assistance to each occupied unit at the Bluffs at the expiration of the HAP contract."

Motion was made by Councilor Emerson, and seconded by Councilor Sealey, to authorize the Interim City Manager to Execute the Conciliation Agreement.

Councilor Bailey offered an amendment to the **motion**, to improve the perception overall to limit the terms of the agreement to "if the City assigns its options." The maker of the motion did not accept the amendment.

Councilor Harris let Council and the community know that the Southern Christian Leadership Council (SCLC), under his leadership as Vice President, originally put this matter up as a civil rights situation. HUD said he could not do that because he did not have standing as an individual. The National

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Board took it up and their attorney in Atlanta made contact with HUD also and started the process. That is why there was difficulty with this process. He hopes to resolve the matter.

Councilor Bailey raised a question concerning what will happen if the City ends up having to purchase the Bluffs. We are interested in getting someone else to purchase it. But right now we need to concentrate on getting our business out of the hands of HUD and move forward. HUD would be happier if we played the role of facilitator rather than the purchaser. We should make it a priority to be a facilitator.

Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

Councilor Bailey	-	yes
Councilor Harris	-	yes
Councilor Emerson	-	yes
Councilor Sealey	-	yes
Mayor Taylor	-	yes
Vice Mayor Pelham	-	yes
Councilor Cuffey	-	yes

REGULAR BUSINESS - APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Motion was made by Councilor Sealey, and seconded by Councilor Emerson, to appoint Cheryl L. Collins to the Architectural Review Board for a term extending through October 31, 2007, and Rita Joyner to the Architectural Review Board for a term extending through October 31, 2009. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

Councilor Bailey	-	yes
Councilor Harris	-	yes
Councilor Emerson	-	yes
Councilor Sealey	-	yes
Mayor Taylor	-	yes
Vice Mayor Pelham	-	yes
Councilor Cuffey	-	yes

Motion was made by Councilor Cuffey, and seconded by Councilor Sealey, to appoint Dr. Winston Odom, Superintendent of Schools for the City of Hopewell to the Riverside Community Criminal Justice Board (RCCJB). Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

Councilor Bailey	-	yes
Councilor Harris	-	yes
Councilor Emerson	-	yes
Councilor Sealey	-	yes
Mayor Taylor	-	yes
Vice Mayor Pelham	-	yes
Councilor Cuffey	-	yes

REPORTS OF CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Councilor Bailey reported that Camille Bowman wants to get her to help us become a Certified Local Government. She wants to start with the Architectural Review Board, and the Historic Hopewell Foundation would also benefit. In another matter, the play "Rumplestilskin" is playing at Ft. Lee on

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Friday, March 30 at 7:00 PM, Saturday, March 31 at 2:00 PM, and Sunday, April 1 at 2:00 PM. The cost is \$4.00 per ticket. Patrons can get through the Ft. Lee gate easily if you say you are going to the play.

Councilor Cuffey stated that several scenes for a movie were shot in Hopewell recently. The movie was about the marriage of a Jewish woman and a Muslim man. The scenes were shot at the marina and in the Courts building. Councilor Cuffey was in some of the non-speaking scenes. On behalf of the Legislative Committee he reported on meeting with Delegate McEachin. He offered insightful help, and the Councilor looks forward to building bridges. Mr. McEachin supports trying to diversify businesses or incentivize on a state level. Towards the end of April he will set a Ward #7 meeting; he will announce it at the next Council meeting.

Councilor Harris indicated that Mr. McEachin gave the Martin Luther King, Jr. Foundation a check for enough money to put a four-foot long granite bench beside the statue in the Ashford Civic Plaza. The bench has been ordered. On April 7, 2007, at 3:00 PM there will be a Martin Luther King, Jr., Memorial in the plaza and the bench should be in place. A reception will be held at the John Randolph Foundation.

Councilor Sealey shared that last Thursday he spoke to a group of about 50-60 citizens who met in Council Chambers. Mayor Taylor gave an excellent PowerPoint presentation. They addressed any questions they wanted to ask. It was a good group, and the meeting was productive. They look over our shoulder and keep us in line.

Councilor Emerson reported that the Crater Planning District Commission is having a citizens meeting on Thursday, March 29, 6:30-8:30 PM at the Train Station in Petersburg to discuss the impact of BRAC and employment and development challenges. He was at the Recreation Center today and took a Bike Virginia brochure. There is a lot going on here and coming here. Bike Virginia is coming here. The Cat Quest is coming in two weeks. Jo Turek and her folks are doing a great job down thee. There are a lot of activities going on. In another matter, there have been tragic fires in nearby localities recently. He hopes that our Fire Department has programs to educate citizens about smoke detectors.

Vice Mayor Pelham invited citizens to call Council members to support the School Budget; it does not look good. Teachers are citizens and parents living or working in Hopewell. She is not in favor of a tax rate reduction. In another matter, Hopewell High School is putting on the play, "Little Shop of Horrors," Friday and Saturday, March 30 & 31 at 7:00 PM, and Sunday, April 1 at 3:00 PM. On Friday there will be a dinner by Outback Steakhouse. Contact HHS. The Hopewell School System's Spring Holiday starts on Friday afternoon April 6 (1/2 day) through April 15.

Mayor Taylor has spent a busy two weeks. He attended a session with citizens. Also a Meals on Wheels Program; he enjoyed the interaction. With his church he took some short-term training soldiers out for a Saturday before they are deployed overseas. They went to Weston Manor, then to Williamsburg, and then to a picnic at a church member's house.

ADJOURN

At 10:22 PM, **motion** was made by Councilor Sealey, and seconded by Councilor Cuffey, to adjourn the meeting. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

Councilor Bailey	-	yes
Councilor Harris	-	yes
Councilor Emerson	-	yes
Councilor Sealey	-	yes
Mayor Taylor	-	yes

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Vice Mayor Pelham	-	yes
Councilor Cuffey	-	yes

Steven R. Taylor, Mayor

Ann M. Romano, City Clerk